



1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800
406-444-3115
TDD: 406-444-3005
Toll Free: 800-338-5087
Fax: 406-444-0266

We're on the Web!
<http://msl.state.mt.us>
Agency E-Mail: msl@state.mt.us

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DateEvent

September is Library Card Sign- Up Month	
September 24-25 Fall Workshop Great Falls	
September 25-October 2 Banned Books Week	
October 13 Montana State Library Commission in Helena	
October 17-18 ASLD/PLD 2004 Fall Retreat at Fairmont Hot Springs	
October 18-20 MSC (Montana Shared Catalog) Training in Helena	
November 4-5 OCLC Training in Billings	

For more details:
<http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

BIG SKY LIBRARIES

Number 89

August/September/October, 2004

Strege Resigns as State Librarian Staffeldt Appointed

Karen Strege has resigned from her position as Montana State Librarian, a position that she has held for eight years. Her resignation is effective October 15, 2004.

"I have enjoyed the last eight years serving the citizens of Montana and their libraries," said Dr. Strege. "I will miss this most interesting and fulfilling job."

Dr. Strege also thanked the State Library Commission, staff, and all those who work in and for Montana's libraries.

"Montana citizens should be very proud of all of their libraries," said Strege.

State Library Commissioners appointed Darlene Staffeldt to serve as the next Montana State Librarian. Darlene has worked at the State Library for 28 years in a number of positions. Most recently, Darlene served as the manager of the Statewide Library Resources Program, which includes the Talking Book Library and the Library Development Department.

"I deeply appreciate the vote of confidence given me by the Library Commission," said Staffeldt. "I will do all within my abilities and skills to realize the Commission's mission for the Montana State Library, which is to help Montana's citizens receive the information services they need to improve or enhance their lives."

The State Library Commission Chair, Al Randall, of Troy said, "The Commission has appointed an excellent librarian to replace an excellent librarian. We are confident that Darlene will provide the stability and leadership needed during these uncertain times."

Darlene received her Master's of Library Science degree from the University of Washington. She received the Sheila Cates "Librarian of the Year" award from the Montana Library Association in 1999, and the Governor's Award for Excellence in 1993.

Pilot Project Tests Internet Streaming for Recorded Magazine Delivery

By Christie Briggs, Montana Talking Book Library Supervisor

Lloyd Rasmussen, senior National Library Service (NLS) engineer, recently demonstrated the software for Internet streaming that may eventually bring recorded magazines to users on demand via the Internet. If successful, the project will make magazines immediately available via the Internet to vision-impaired library users. The project is currently being tested by 35 patrons, all experienced computer users.

The pilot features three NLS-produced audio magazines, which are produced to conform with the ANSI/NISO standard for Digital Talking Books (DTB's). The magazines are: *U.S. News and World Report*, *Smart Computing*, and *People*. Each magazine can be selectively downloaded and played back as desired. Judith Dixon, Consumer Relations Officer for NLS, is actively involved with this project to test delivery over the Internet of digital audio magazines rendered in human speech. Indications to date are positive.



Karen Strege, Ph.D.

A Message from the State Librarian

As I prepare to leave my post as State Librarian, I would like to pause to reflect on the past eight years. First and foremost, it has been a privilege to work with all of you. Montana's librarians have continually impressed me with their dedication, resourcefulness, and

passion for providing all of Montana's citizens with the tools of one of our nation's greatest resources - libraries. We all have much to be proud of. Montana's libraries and librarians are valued and serve as important pillars in our communities.

I am also proud of what has been accomplished here at the Montana State Library. The Montana State Library staff has all worked together to anticipate the needs of Montanans, as well as the needs of Montana's libraries and librarians. Some of what we have achieved includes:

- □ Formation of the Montana Library Network
- □ Development of the Montana Shared Catalog
- □ Establishment of state funding for full text periodical databases
- □ Passage of several bills clarifying library law
- □ Establishment of law allowing public library districts
- □ Creation of first mandatory statewide library standards
- □ Development of Summer Institutes/Fall Workshops
- □ Institution of statewide library technology consultants

- □ Development of easily used, accurate spatial information about Montana's natural resources
- □ Consolidation of the Natural Resources Services Department and the Library Information Services Department into the Montana State Digital Library

Looking toward the future, I am sorry that I will not be here to continue our work to improve the services Montana's libraries offer. However, as you know, the State Library Commission has chosen Darlene Staffeldt to succeed me. The Commission has made a very wise choice in Darlene, given her experience and proven abilities in many areas of librarianship. I also know that Darlene has the respect and trust of the library community. She will be able to hit the ground running with great support from all of you.

Like all of us who work for or support libraries, I believe in the power of words to convey thoughts and emotions, as well as to change or move hearts and minds. However, I feel that any words I could write would inadequately express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for allowing me to be a part of your world for the past eight years.

So I went a goggling to find if another's words might fit. As all of you know, goggling will lead you into unknown worlds that are sometimes best unexplored. (For example, I found loveislonely.com.) I also found many gloomy poems, but eventually found a quote that somehow fits the bill.

The quote is from a *South Park* episode: "Saying goodbye doesn't mean anything. It's the time we spent together that matters, not how we left it." Thanks for the time that we spent together - it was wonderful.

Trustee Workshops in Missoula and Billings

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Two workshops for public library trustees are scheduled for this fall. The one-day workshops are scheduled in two locations: Missoula on Saturday, October 23 and Billings on Saturday, November 6. All trustees and public library directors are invited to attend the workshop at the most convenient location.

Darlene Staffeldt, the new State Librarian, will welcome the trustees and introduce Jeanne Goodrich, trainer/consultant from Portland, as the primary speaker. Jeanne will talk about the role of trustees as library advocates and will introduce trustees to important

advocacy and communication techniques to use when working with members of the community, city/county officials, or state representatives.

Registration will begin in September. These trustee workshops are funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Montana State Library Commission. Contact Sue Jackson at the Montana State Library (sujackson@state.mt.us) for more information.

Commission Report: Fall Is A Time For Change And Continued Growth

By Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction and
Montana State Library Commissioner



Linda McCulloch

There is no stopping the "libraryland grapevine." Most librarians have heard the news by now: Karen Strege is leaving her position as State Librarian. The Commission has chosen Darlene Staffeldt to be the new State Librarian. As many have already voiced on Wired-MT, it is bittersweet news. Please join the Commission in wishing Karen well. We hope she continues to be involved in Montana's libraries. Her continued insight will prove invaluable.

With Darlene's appointment, the Commission hopes to preserve the legacy of Karen's tenure as State Librarian while reaching even greater heights in libraries around the state in order to further enhance the lives of Montana's citizens. Karen has helped Montana's libraries make great strides. We hope to continue to be a leader in technology, to provide quality training, and to continue the important work started in making the Montana State Digital Library a reality for all of us. We are confident that Darlene can help us achieve great things in the years to come.

For all school librarians, preparing for the beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. Getting ready for students is no small feat. We must prepare student schedules; order textbooks, supplies and materials;

prepare lesson plans; arrange new books on the library shelves; fit in the last in-service; and the list goes on and on. In addition to school libraries, many public and academic libraries serve students after school or offer learning and information through their Web sites. As we all know, librarians and libraries are an integral part of every student's education.

I urge you to get to know other librarians or library lovers in your community. Find a way to share ideas and do cooperative purchases, loan whatever item you can to another library, and keep the libraryland grapevine alive.

Finally, the Montana State Library Commission wants to hear your opinions. Attend meetings and give us your input. The meeting notes and agendas are posted at the MSL Commission Web site: <http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/Commission/commish.html>. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to express it to any of the commission members, or just stop by and say hello.

Fall is here; school is open! Let the learning continue!



Find Items in Montana Libraries with MLNCAT

By Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Manager

On September 8, 2004, MLNCAT (<http://mlncat.org>) replaced the Montana Library Network (MLN) Gateway. MLNCAT is a customized union catalog of the holdings of more than 250 Montana libraries. Montana libraries have already made an investment in building a collection of library records within the OCLC WorldCat database. MLNCAT, Montana's portion of WorldCat that includes over four million titles, builds on this investment.

MLNCAT replaces the Montana Library Network Gateway, which has run on an MLN server since 2000. Like the Montana Library Network Gateway, MLNCAT provides one-search access to Montana catalogs and

WorldCat, but features a friendlier, faster and more flexible OCLC FirstSearch interface. Additionally, MLNCAT will provide unlimited access to the collections of Montana libraries, as well as unlimited access to OCLC's resource sharing services.

The Montana Library Network (MLN) is a project of the Montana State Library. MLN partners with Montana libraries to ensure the delivery of quality, standards-based, networked library materials and services to all Montanans. MLN is funded by a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Got RSS?

By The Montana State Digital Library Staff

When we ask if you have RSS, we don't mean repetitive stress syndrome. Instead, we are referring to "Really Simple Syndication" or "Rich Site Summary" ~ an easy way of scanning time-sensitive content published on the Web. RSS can help you keep track of your daily dose of current events without the time-wasting tedium of opening one Web site after another, or of having lists of unread bookmarks. RSS (also known as aggregated feeds) has shaved off hours of daily research by receiving all news content in one place.

Tedious tasks require practical tools

In order to scan dozens of headlines a day, all you need is an RSS reader (also known as an aggregator) and you're on your way to creating your own executive clipping service of cleanly organized headlines and story summaries.

RSS itself is really simple. It is a text-based format ~ a type of computer mark-up language called XML (RSS feeds are sometimes labeled "XML"). There are various other syndication formats besides RSS (such as Atom), but RSS is by far the most widely used and supported today.

You will soon start seeing RSS feeds everywhere. Growing numbers of Web sites have started a syndication craze, evidenced by the fact that almost everybody - from *The New York Times* to the writer next door has started publishing a Web feed alerting audiences with tiny orange buttons or hyperlinks (like RSS) placed conspicuously on their pages. Some sites even have multiple links, one for each section of their publication. RSS files (also called RSS feeds or channels) contain a string of items. Usually each item contains a title, a summary and a link pointing to the Web page that contains the full content of the article. The most common use for RSS files is for news and other chronologically ordered Web sites like Web logs (or blogs).

These links indicate that content can be placed in an aggregator for viewing and constant updating. Clicking directly on them will only deliver your browser the raw code. But once the link is pasted into a reader (creating a "subscription"), these feeds become a way for you to scan, read or reject articles quickly as they become available.

When browsing the world in RSS, the whole approach to using the Web changes. Instead of pages and search engines, the Web becomes a world of interconnected ideas, a sphere of discussions that are linked in more meaningful ways.

Pulling content toward you

RSS has a few distinct advantages over Web browsing and email. First, there are no ads or heavy graphics. You may have to click through to the full Web page to read

the entire story, but scanning an RSS reader is still more efficient than looking at the front page of CNN online.

Now that you are aware of this tool, new and interesting uses for RSS will constantly appear. From traditional publications like the BBC and Yahoo!News to more esoteric information sources, like the State of California's Emergency Digital Information Service (<http://edis.gigo.com>), you can easily manage information from many different sites with RSS. There is even an RSS calendar that enables individuals and organizations to share their calendars with family, friends, colleagues, and patrons (<http://www.rss.calendar.com>).

It's exciting to think about how these simple and direct feeds can both benefit you personally and what libraries will be able to do with this technology in the future. We've provided some initial feeds as suggestions to help you get started and get familiar with RSS. Or, for an exhaustive list of aggregators, type "news readers" into Google to access their reference directory. If you have any questions, please contact the Montana State Digital Library staff at (406) 444-5351.

SIDEBAR FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

Be sure to look for RSS feeds on each of these links.

News and Career Sites of Interest to Librarians and Libraries

- Combined Job Postings - Library Job Postings on the Net at LISjobs.com - <http://www.lisjobs.com/jobs/>
- Info Career Trends Professional Development newsletter - <http://www.lisjobs.com/newsletter/current.htm>
- A library Web log - <http://www.librarian.net/>
- LIS Blogsource - A library Web log about library Web logs - <http://www.lisblogsource.net/>
- LIS News - Librarian and Information Science News - <http://www.lisnews.com/>
- Loomware, Crafting New Libraries - Discussions related to information and technology in academic libraries, universities and life in general - <http://blog.uwinnipeg.ca/loomware/>
- Resource Shelf - Resources and News for Information Professionals - <http://www.resourceshelf.com/>
- Library Stuff - A library Web log dedicated to resources for keeping current and professional development - <http://www.librarystuff.net/>
- Research Buzz - Designed to cover the world of Internet research - <http://www.researchbuzz.com>

(For more blogs on library and information science related topics search Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com>) using the keyword "library AND librarian.")

Sites of General Interest

- Top 100 feeds according to Salon.com. Includes feeds to Christian Science Monitor, Scientific American, The New York Times, AP World News, plus many others - <http://rsc.salon.com/rscPublic/rssHotlist>
- Personal Web log on Montana state politics with a thorough list of every blog kept by a Montana local resident - <http://www.mtpolitics.net>
- RSS links to 68 BBC news feeds - <http://backend.userland.com/2003/06/24>
- RSS and Atom news feeds on a wide variety of topics - <http://www.syndic8.com>

You Input is Needed!

Review the proposed set of Public Library Standards, and submit your input.

By Darlene Staffeldt, Statewide Library Development Department Director

In May 2004, a committee was formed to review the existing public library standards. The review committee's goals are (1) to provide a tool to assess the quality and effectiveness of public libraries, (2) to help each library determine areas to improve, and (3) to aid each library in taking an active role to gain maximum community support.

After reviewing the existing standards, the committee developed a draft of new standards. In order to improve this draft, the committee needs to hear your comments. The goal is to present a final draft to the Montana State Library Commission at the Commission's February meeting. Please review the draft and provide your comments by October 29, 2004. Committee members are listed below. Feel free to contact any of them with your suggestions and other input.

To find a complete set of the proposed new standard look at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/slr/standardswired.doc>

Committee Members

Bette Ammon, Missoula Public Library,
bammon@missoula.lib.mt.us or 721-2665

Nancy Brennan, Bicentennial Library of Colstrip,
bicenlib@tgrsolution.net or 748-3040

Cathy Briden, Valier Public Library, valpubl@3rivers.net or 279-3366

Tracy Cook, Montana State Library, tcook@mtlib.org or 888-502-0012

Andrea Hayes, Roosevelt County Library, read@nemontel.net or 653-2411

Tom Heyes, West Yellowstone Public Library,
lakehost2004@yahoo.com

Debbi Kramer, Judith Basin County Library, spclk@3rivers.net or 566-2277 x123

Jean Nielsen, Three Forks Community Library,
tflibrary@mtlib.org or 285-3747

Darlene Staffeldt, ex-officio, Montana State Library,
dstaffeldt@state.mt.us or 800-338-5087

Karen Strege, ex-officio, Montana State Library,
kstrege@state.mt.us or 800-338-5087

Montana Librarian Esther Dean Passes Away

Esther Nelstead Dean was born on November 4, 1918 in Ekalaka, MT. She died June 9, 2004, at Rosebud Health Care Center.

Esther grew up in Miles City and graduated from Custer County High School in 1935. She graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, earning a degree in history and English literature. She was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In Forsyth, she met and married Walter B. Dean Jr. on October 28, 1940. After the birth of their daughter, Marcyes, in 1941, Walter joined the Navy to serve in World War II. They moved to Florida, where daughter Janice was born. After the war, the family returned to Forsyth, where four sons, Walter, Rudy, Gordon and Peter, were born.

In 1971, she was selected to serve as the Rosebud County Librarian, a job she loved. Through this job, she assisted many young students with reading and research projects, which was work she truly enjoyed. Her

knowledge and love of history and her thirst for learning were contagious to folks around her. Many enjoyed stopping by the library for stimulating conversations and sharing ideas. A great legacy which Esther left to Rosebud County was compilation of the book *They Came and Stayed*, the definitive history of families of Rosebud County. Through the years, she and her husband Walter also provided musical entertainment, which brought a lively spirit to many local occasions.

After retiring from the library in 1980, she fulfilled a lifetime dream by traveling both around the world and locally to visit family and friends. Among the activities that brought great joy to Esther were cooking wonderful meals for friends and family, making candy using her own original recipes, knitting special items for those close to her and sharing her profound knowledge of local history and people with anyone who asked.

Memorials may be sent to the Rosebud County Library, PO Box 7, Forsyth, MT 59347-0007

Collection Management Honor Roll 2004 Deadline

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

It's not too early to start planning for your library to be included in the 2004 Collection Management Honor Roll. Just a reminder: a library must have a current and approved collection management policy on file at Montana State Library by December 31, 2004, in order to qualify for the Honor Roll. Additionally, a library must have a minimum of 50 percent of its holdings on

the OCLC database for Honor Roll inclusion. The holdings statistics are provided by OCLC's Western Office and will be requested in January. For more information about the Collection Management Honor Roll, contact Sue Jackson (sujackson@state.mt.us) at the Montana State Library.

Use the Montana Library Network Catalog to find the materials you need... In Montana libraries or libraries around the world. You'll find:

Books
Magazines
Maps
Historical documents
Photographs
Videos
Web sites

Log on at your library, or ask your librarian for a password and log on from home

mlncat.org



SEARCH MONTANA DISCOVER the WORLD



The Montana Library Network Catalog is a project of the Montana Library Network (MLN), part of the Montana State Library. MLN partners with Montana libraries to ensure the delivery of quality, standards-based, networked library materials and services to all Montanians. MLN is funded by a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

See article
"Find Items in Montana Libraries with MLNCAT" on page 3

Need it? Find it! @ your library



Montana Library Network Catalog

mlncat.org

Summer Reading Program 2005

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Thinking ahead to next year, Montana State Library is excited to announce that it will purchase 2005 summer reading program manuals for all public libraries in the state. This will make it possible for libraries to receive the manuals, created by the Collaborative Summer Library Program, by December 2004. The 2005 manual will include materials libraries can use to host summer reading programs and activities for both children and young adults.

In addition, MSL will again contract with Cindy Christin, Children's Librarian at

Bozeman Public Library, to be one of Montana's representatives at the April 2005 Collaborative Summer Library Program meeting. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will fund Cindy's participation in the annual meeting when the Summer Reading Program theme will be selected for 2006.

For more information, contact Sue Jackson at MSL (sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087).

State Librarian's Office:
Karen Strage, Ph.D., State Librarian
Kris Schmitz, Central Services Manager
Statewide Library Resources:
Darlene Staffeldt, Program Manager
Library Development:
Bob Cooper, Suzanne Keymer, Tracy Cook,
Statawide Technology Librarians
Sue Jackson, Federal Grants/Institutions
Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Manager
Library and Information Services:
Toni Orr, Client Services Supervisor
Sarah McHugh, Technical Services and Systems Supervisor
Montana Talking Book Library: Christie Briggs, Supervisor
Natural Resource Information System: Jim Hill, Director
Montana State Library Commission:
Al Randall, Chair
Caroline Bittz, D
Toni Broadbent
Gail Steffanson
Bruce Mortenson
Linda Mculloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheri Bergeron, Alternate for Supt. of Public Instruction
Phone: 406-444-3115 – Fax: 406-444-0266
Toll Free in Montana: 800-338-5087 – TDD: 406-444-3005
Montana State Library Home Page: <http://msl.state.mt.us>
E-Mail: msl@state.mt.us
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State Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800
Address Service Requested